

## Message Text

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15

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 DODE-00 PER-01 /034 W

----- 115211

R 010705Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4153

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMENBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0757

NAIROBI FOR RCO

ADDIS ABABA FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, AEMR, ET

SUBJ: E&E RADIO EQUIPMENT (VHF)

1. THE SECURITY SITUATION IN ASMARA MAKES IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT THE CONSULATE GENERAL MAINTAIN RELIABLE E&E RADIO CAPABILITY. DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE E&E RADIO EQUIPMENT HAS, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, FAILED TO MEET OUR E&E REQUIREMENTS. THIS WAS CAUSED BY POOR CONDITION OF RADIOS, OUR INABILITY REPAIR DEFECTIVE OR MALFUNCTIONING EQUIPMENT OR TO OBTAIN FROM NAIROBI RCO PROMPT REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE UNITS. THE INVENTORY OF RADIO EQUIPMENT HELD BY THE CONGEN IS A HODGEPODGE, WITH AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENT TYPES OF RADIOS ON HAND.

2. ONE OF THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS PLACED UPON CONGEN STAFF WHEN OFF THEBASE COMPOUND IS THAT THEY TRAVEL IN A VEHICLE EQUIPPED WITH A RADIO. THE REASON FOR THIS REQUIREMENT IS TO ENABLE FAST RECALL OF PERSONNEL AT THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES AND TO PREVENT PERSONNEL FROM UNWITTINGLY DRIVING INTO A PART OF THE CITY IN WHICH A FIREFIGHT HAS BEEN REPORTED. THE ONLY CONGEN VEHICLE THAT HAS A RADIO PERMANENTLY MOUNTED IS THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S SEDAN. TWO OTHER VEHICLES HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY RIGGED TO ACCEPT A PR36

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AND A HN36. NEITHER OF THESE UNITS STAND UP UNDER CONSTANT USE IN

VEHICLES. IN ADDITION, USE IN VEHICLES LIMITS THE NUMBER OF PORTABLE RADIOS AVAILABLE AT THE CONGEN COMPOUND FOR USE BY THE MARINE GUARD DURING DEPLOYMENT IN PROTECTION OF THE CONGEN COMPOUND.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HEATHKIT RADIOS, FM56'S AND MT76, THE REST OF THE RADIO EQUIPMENT IS IN POOR CONDITION.

THE PRESENT ASSIGNMENT OF RADIOS IS AS FOLLOWS:

CONGEN BASE STATION	FM56
MARINE QUARTERS	FM56
PRINCIPAL OFFICER RESIDENCE	HEATHKIT HW-202
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OFF. RESIDENCE	HEATHKIT HW-202
ADMIN/PSO RESIDENCE	HN36 (1CHANNEL)
CRO RESIDENCE	HEATHKIT HW-202
PO SEDAN	MT76
SECURITY VEHICLE	PR36
MARINE GUARD POST #1	HN36 (2 CHANNEL, BACKUP IN EVENT POWER FAIL.)
U.S. NAVY-OIC TRACT E	PR-36
U.S. NAVY COMM CENTER	HN-36
U.S. NAVY SATELLITE TERMINAL	PR-36
MARINE GUARD COMPOUND DEFENSE	PR-36 (1 SHORT, SENT FOR FOUR UNITS REPAIR & NEVER RETURNED BY RCO)

4. AS A PARTIAL SOLUTION TO THE VHF RADIO PROBLEM THE CONGEN IS PROCEEDING WITH THE INSTALLATION OF HEATHKIT 2-METER TRANSCEIVERS, MODEL HW-202, IN THE THREE CONGEN VEHICLES. (HEATHKITS ACQUIRED FROM NSA FACILITY WHICH CLOSED DOWN). TO COMPLETE INSTALLATION CONGEN REQUIRES THREE VEHICLE ANTENNAS. RADIOS OPERATE ON 146.94 MHZ. HEATHKITS WILL RELEASE PR36'S AND OTHER RADIOS FOR RECALL USE ON CONGEN COMPOUND. REQUEST SHIPMENT OF ANTENNAS AS SOON AS MOVEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC POUCHES INTO ETHIOPIA RESUMED.

5. AS A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THE VHF RADIO PROBLEM, REQUEST THAT CONGEN BE PROVIDED WITH TWELVE GE MASTR PE56R RADIOS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NOT ONLY IS THIS TYPE RADIO MORE COMPACT BUT OF BETTER QUALITY AND PROVIDES SUPERIOR SERVICE. THIS WOULD ENABLE CONGEN TO PLACE COMPATIBLE RADIOS IN EACH OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, FOUR FOR MARINE GUARD CONGEN DEFENSE, THREE WITH U.S. NAVY, AND  
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ONE SPARE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PROMPT PROCUREMENT AND SHIPMENT OF (A) 3 VEHICLE ANTENNAS (PARA 4), AND (B) 12 GE-MASTR PR56R RADIOS.  
SLUTZ

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## Message Attributes

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